

"OVER THE YEARS WHEN MY MOTHER'S CONDITION STARTED TO IMPROVE, I STARTED TO PHOTOGRAPH AT HOME MORE. APART FROM MY MOTHER THE FOCUS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS ALSO INCLUDED HER DOG ELSA, WHO HAD BEEN HER SOLE COMPANION AT HOME FOR MANY YEARS AND ALSO THE HOUSE ITSELF, WHOSE CONDITION DETERIORATED OR IMPROVED AS MY MOTHER'S ILLNESS REGRESSED OR PROGRESSED. HER RELATIONSHIP WITH ELSA, WHICH HAD SUBSTITUTED INTIMATE HUMAN CONTACT AS SIMPLE AS TOUCH OR CONVERSATION ALL THESE YEARS, HAD PLAYED A BIG PART IN MY MOTHER'S IMPROVEMENT. IN THE LATE WINTER OF 2014 ELSA DIED, HAVING GROWN OLD IN HER 13TH YEAR. THAT WINTER WAS A STRANGE ONE BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IT HAD RAINED EVERY DAY, AND THE SUN WASN'T SEEN ON MOST DAYS. TOWARDS THE END, MY MOTHER HAD EVEN OPENED UP TO MY FATHER WITH WHOM SHE HAD SEPARATED ALMOST 15 YEARS AGO. IT WAS HER SEPARATION WITH HIM THAT HAD TRIGGERED HER ILLNESS IN THE FIRST PLACE." – SOHRAB HURA

1) A reflective photo essay such as this one might not have a strictly defined thesis statement. But how would you describe the main idea of Hura's work? What is the dominant impression created by his mix of words and pictures?

I would describe the main idea as a peaceful collage of memories, the small things like a tree, lizard, and flower, to the bigger things, like parents, their dog, and their home. The dominant impression I got is having a good time, whether it be them smoking, feeding the dog, or the mother painting her nails.

2) In addition to the focus on his mother, Hura also includes photographs of his father and their dog, Elsa. How do these connect with the purpose of his photo essay? What effect does it leave on the reader?

The inclusion of Elsa shows the compassion that she needed during her time at home, before 2014, and the inclusion of his father is to show her connecting with him by smoking together. It makes me happy.

3) This collection includes one photograph of Hura himself, which is presented in black and white. Do you feel like this contrast from the other photos has any significance? Why or why not?

I don't think so, because he just wanted a photo of themselves with Elsa. The black and white could represent a past time, compared to the other photos, but I think he just wanted to take a picture with this filter.

4) Which of these photos stood out the most to you? Why did this photo leave this impact on you?

The one with Elsa entering the machine. It was surprising because it was a change of mood from the entire collage.